

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL  
March 10, 2008

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Alamo Heights, Texas was held at the Council Chambers, 6120 Broadway, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2008.

Present and composing a quorum were:

Mayor Louis Cooper  
Mayor Pro-Tempore Bobby Rosenthal  
Councilman Stan McCormick  
Councilwoman Jill Souter  
Councilman Bill Kiel  
Councilwoman Susan Harwell

Also attending were:

City Manager Rebecca Waldman  
City Attorney Mike Brenan  
Assistant to City Manager/Information Technology Manager Marian Ramirez  
Finance Director Cynthia Barr  
Human Resource Manager/Deputy City Secretary Judith E. Surratt  
Public Works Director Shawn P. Eddy  
Public Works Manager Pat Sullivan  
Utilities Manager Jacob Rojas  
Police Chief Rick Pruitt  
Interim Fire Chief/EMS Administrator Bill Woodward  
Temporary Assistant Leticia M. Callanen

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Mayor Louis Cooper called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

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Mayor Cooper presented a proclamation of appreciation to Mrs. T Satel. He read the proclamation which recounted her outstanding contributions to the City of Alamo Heights as a business owner, who with her late husband co-founded Satel's in Alamo Heights in 1948, establishing the first men's and boy's clothing store in a suburban location in San Antonio. Mayor Cooper also spoke of his appreciation for Mrs. Satel as a personal friend and valued member of the community.

Mrs. Satel thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition.

Ms. Margaret Houston, 140 Patterson, recognized Mrs. Satel for her accomplishments as a role model for the community.

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Mayor Cooper asked City Council for any corrections to the minutes of the February 10, 2008 and February 24, 2008, City Council Meetings. A motion was made by Councilman Rosenthal to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2008 meeting, with amendments as noted by Councilwoman Harwell. Motion was seconded by Councilman Kiel and passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Councilman McCormick to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2008 meeting, with amendments as noted by Councilwoman Harwell and Councilwoman Souter. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Souter and passed by unanimous vote.

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#### City Manager's Report

Deputy City Secretary Judith Surratt informed Council that the 5:00 p.m. March 10, 2008 deadline for filing for a place on the ballot in the May 10, 2008 General Election had passed with only the incumbents filing for City Council Places Three, Four and Five. Write-in candidates have until 5:00 p.m. March 17, 2008 to declare their candidacy. If no one files a write-in declaration by that deadline, the City will cancel the election upon City Council approval and the incumbents will be declared as re-elected to their council positions.

Information was provided by Public Works Director Shawn Eddy and community member Lissa Martinez on the upcoming annual Basura Bash and the City of Alamo Heights' participation and support of the clean-up efforts at Olmos Creek scheduled for March 29, 2008.

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#### Citizens To Be Heard Concerning Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Margaret Houston, 140 Patterson, spoke to a concern involving a property at 200 Patterson and possible attempts by the University of the Incarnate Word to construct an access point for the university property. She urged Council to ask staff to find out if any current work is being done by the university.

Ms. Margaret Spencer, 140 Patterson, requested that city staff review all current Special Use Permits (SUP) holders and consider removal.

Ms. Claire Golden, 406 Patterson, expressed her concern related to the 200 Patterson property matter and maintaining the character of the neighborhood.

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## Staff Reports

### *Item #4*

Mr. Shawn P. Eddy, Public Works Director, presented a Power Point presentation outlining recommended projects as part of the City Council approved \$7.5M Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the next steps for implementation. A copy of this presentation is made part of the official papers of this meeting. Mr. Eddy reviewed projects and implementation of this phase of the CIP which includes design, survey and other work associated with the new elevated water tank in the Public Works yard, the E. Castano Street reconstruction project, and identified water, street and sidewalk projects. Mr. Eddy further discussed a proposed automated water control system and provided a list of projects to be funded by the VIA Metropolitan Local Assistance Program (LAP).

Council discussion took place related to the age of the water tanks, current and future location, safety matters and automated water system controls. Mr. Eddy explained the future plans for the TMI water tower and the water tower located on City Hall property in that the water towers would remain in operation until the new water tower was constructed and fully operable. Mr. Eddy further described the proposed automated water control system.

Councilwoman Harwell asked if N. New Braunfels Avenue project would complete all scheduled work along N. New Braunfels Avenue. Mr. Eddy confirmed that it would.

Council discussion ensued related to the selection of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sidewalk improvement projects and staff responded with information in regard to ensuring compliance with the ADA.

Councilwoman Harwell stated that while Council would like to do everything that needs to be done in the City, the City is currently focused on utilizing available resources to make improvements that address safety needs in the areas near public schools.

In response to a question from Councilman McCormick, Mr. Eddy clarified the ending boundaries of the street projects to be from the alley north of Claywell Drive to Burr Road on Broadway.

Mr. Eddy then presented City Council with a preview of the recently developed design for new street signs to be installed in the near future after Council awards the contract. Council discussion followed regarding the design features and suggestions were made to staff regarding the color and shape of the posts, and the inclusion of block numbers on the signs.

City Manager Waldman reminded City Council that this matter was not posted for discussion but could be taken up at a future City Council meeting.

Ms. Margaret Houston, 140 Patterson, commended staff for the CIP presentation and discussed her concern with the lack of sidewalks along a portion of Broadway near Albany Avenue.

Councilman Kiel responded by explaining that there is an issue with the slope of the road making it difficult to make it ADA compliant. Councilwoman Harwell further explained that staff was aware of the issue and would consider that area as part of a future comprehensive plan for improvement.

Ms. Margaret Houston, 140 Patterson, asked if the signage that was to be replaced could be sold for profit by the City.

Mayor Cooper explained that there could be some liability with selling signage but suggested that staff could look into the idea.

Ms. Margaret Spencer, 140 Patterson, requested an update on the City Hall fence and requested information regarding the ownership and replanting efforts on land at the end of the alley between HEB and Stratford Condominiums.

Mr. Shawn Eddy, Public Works Director, provided a brief update on the construction of the Public Works fence, which should be complete within five weeks. Mr. Eddy also spoke to his understanding of the replanting efforts being conducted by the contractor in coordination with Stratford Condominiums in the area in question, and will research the property's ownership.

Councilwoman Souter asked Mr. Eddy if he was comfortable with the 8% contingency amount allowance for the proposed CIP projects and if the 600K gallon water tank was sufficient for the City's needs. Mr. Eddy explained that he was comfortable with the contingency amount and explained that more would be known about the costs of the projects once the bids start to come in. Mr. Eddy also stated that a 600K gallon tank was adequate to meet the City's water requirements.

In response to Mayor Cooper's question regarding correlation between width of sidewalks and the tendency for some to lift due to tree roots, Mr. Pat Sullivan, Public Works Manager, stated that the problem with the pavement lifting could be dependant upon how the sidewalk was originally constructed and whether steel rebar was used.

Councilwoman Souter suggested that staff post signage at the site of City capital projects informing citizens that the project is funded through tax dollars. Councilwoman Souter also commended the work of the Public Works staff, namely Mr. Pat Sullivan and Mr. Jacob Rojas.

#### *Item #5*

City Manager Rebecca Waldman and Finance Director Cynthia Barr provided a presentation on the proposed extended budget, highlighted changes in revenues and expenditures, and provided information related to the General Fund and Utility Fund financial positions. A copy of this presentation is made part of the official papers of this meeting.

In response to a question from Councilwoman Harwell related to proposed capital outlay expenditures, Mr. Pat Sullivan, Public Works Manager, explained that the motor grader is a piece of equipment to be used by the Public Works department for repairing streets by in-house crews. In addition, Police Chief Rick Pruitt briefly explained the expenditures related to a new radar for police traffic enforcement. In response to a related question by Councilwoman Harwell, Chief Pruitt stated that the department can determine the general area that a 9-1-1 emergency call is made from when the caller is using a cell phone by using enhanced 9-1-1 technology.

Brief discussion ensued among City Council and staff related to the holiday schedule for solid waste pickup as it related to compensation for solid waste employees, and further discussion took place regarding proposed cost of living adjustments for all employees.

With regard to comments made by both Councilman Rosenthal and Councilman McCormick about street patches, Mr. Sullivan, Public Works Manager, stated that he could explore adding cement to the patching mixture to provide for a less obvious street patch.

Councilman Kiel and Councilwoman Harwell thanked staff for their work in preparing this budget.

Mayor Cooper then moved to the Consent Item portion of the agenda.

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#### Consent Items

*Item #6* Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1758

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING VIA METROPOLITAIN LOCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING FOR CERTAIN CAPITAL PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED THERETO.

Councilwoman Souter made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilman Rosenthal seconded the motion and the motion passed by consensus vote.

Mayor Cooper then moved to the Individual Items portion of the agenda.

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Items for Individual Consideration.

Item #7 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

ORDINANCE NO. 1759

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS FOR FIRE EQUIPMENT USE BETWEEN THE CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS AND TERRELL HILLS AND THE CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS AND OLMOS PARK AS PROVIDED IN THE ATTACHED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS FOR FIRE EQUIPMENT USE AS AUTHORIZED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 791 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS.

Interim Fire Chief William Woodward presented a power point presentation that outlined the proposed interlocal agreements with the cities of Terrell Hills and Olmos Park allowing the City of Alamo Heights to borrow a fire engine from one of the two cities if the need arises during a time where the City's primary fire engine (Engine 3) is placed out of service for maintenance or other reasons. A copy of this presentation is made part of the official papers of this meeting.

In response to questions from Councilman Rosenthal, Chief Woodward stated that the City has made a verbal agreement with the City of Nueva Rosita, Coahuila, Mexico to sell Engine 4, which is currently the City's back up fire engine and will be released once this interlocal agreement is in place. Chief Woodward also explained that this follows past practice but is a more formal agreement than what has been in place in the past.

In response to a question from Councilwoman Harwell, Chief Woodward further explained that the borrowed fire engine would be physically located on property in the event that Engine 3, the primary engine, was off the property or down for routine maintenance, which is generally about 3 hours.

Finance Director Cynthia Barr responded to a question from Councilwoman Harwell relating to the original cost and value of the fire engine that is to be sold for \$20,000, noting that the engine has completely depreciated in value. Fire Chief Woodward also stated that only unincorporated cities could utilize the engine.

After further discussion, Councilman McCormick made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance authorizing an interlocal agreement with the City of Terrell Hills and the City of Olmos Park. Councilwoman Souter seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus vote.

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At this time, Councilman Bill Kiel took a point of personal privilege and made a request to City staff to place on the first available agenda in April, an item related to a discussion of special height regulations included in the Alamo Heights Zoning Code.


City staff made note of the request and will include the item as part of the April 14, 2008 City Council agenda.

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A motion was made by Councilwoman Harwell to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman McCormick and passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Cooper adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

  
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Louis Cooper *ROBERT A. ROSENTHAL*  
Mayor *PRO TEM*

  
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Judith E. Surratt  
Deputy City Secretary